

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
BEFORE THE
SECURITIES COMMISSIONER OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Hightower Financial Partners, LLC,)
IARD# 172962, and)
Christopher Taylor, CRD# 3251069,)
)
Respondents.)

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER:
REVOCATION OF INVESTMENT
ADVISER AND INVESTMENT ADVISER
REPRESENTATIVE REGISTRATIONS**

Matter No. 20172001

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Securities Commissioner of South Carolina (the "Securities Commissioner") under the South Carolina Uniform Securities Act of 2005 (the "Act") and delegated to the Securities Division of the Office of the Attorney General (the "Division") by the Securities Commissioner, the Division has determined that evidence exists to support the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Hightower Financial Partners, LLC ("Hightower") is currently registered as an investment adviser with the Division and has been registered as such since November 3, 2014. Respondent Hightower is located at 640 Morse Avenue, Building A, Unit 2, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina 29576.
2. Respondent Christopher Taylor ("Taylor") is currently registered as an investment adviser representative with the Division and has been registered as such since June 3, 2009. Respondent Taylor's last known address is 195 Sprig Lane, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina 29576.
3. On April 11, 2016, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"), a self-regulatory organization, expelled Respondent Taylor from FINRA membership.
4. FINRA membership results in certain protections for investors and the securities markets of the State, which are in the public interest. These protections no longer remain in place when an individual ceases to be a FINRA member.
5. The Respondents failed to timely file an other-than-annual update to Form ADV disclosing Respondent Taylor's expulsion from FINRA.

6. The Respondents filed an updated Form ADV with the Division on March 23, 2017. The Respondents again failed to disclose Respondent Taylor's expulsion from FINRA.
7. On October 11, 2017, Respondent Taylor signed a Final Consent Order with the North Carolina Securities Division on behalf of Respondent Hightower, pursuant to which Respondent Hightower voluntarily withdrew its registration with the State of North Carolina.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. The Securities Commissioner has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 35-1-601(a).
9. Respondent Taylor's expulsion from FINRA provides the basis for discipline of Respondent Taylor pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §§ 35-1-412(c) and 35-1-412(d)(5)(C).
10. The Respondents' failure to timely file an updated Form ADV with the Division violated S.C. Code Regs. § 13-403(3).
11. The Respondents' failure to disclose Respondent Taylor's expulsion from FINRA on the Form ADV filed March 23, 2017 violated S.C. Code Regs. § 13-403(3).
12. The North Carolina Securities Division's issuance of a Final Consent Order with Respondent Hightower provides the basis for discipline of Respondent Hightower pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §§ 35-1-412(c) and 35-1-412(d)(5)(B).
13. This Order is in the public interest.

[Continued on following page]

IV. ORDER

For the reasons stated above, it is **ORDERED** that:

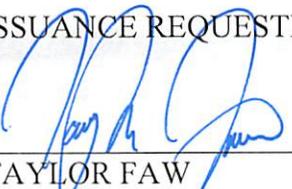
- a. Respondent Hightower's investment adviser registration with the Division is **REVOKED**;
- b. Respondent Taylor's investment adviser representative registration with the Division is **REVOKED**;
- c. If either Respondent requests a hearing in this matter, a hearing shall be scheduled within fifteen (15) days of that Respondent's request; and
- d. The Respondents' failure to file a written answer, including any request for a hearing, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, shall be deemed a waiver by the Respondents of the right to a hearing and shall result in this Order becoming final by operation of law.

ENTERED, this the 9th day of July, 2018.

ALAN WILSON
SECURITIES COMMISSIONER

By: Tracy Meyers
TRACY A. MEYERS
Deputy Securities Commissioner

ISSUANCE REQUESTED BY:



TAYLOR FAW
Assistant Attorney General
Securities Division
1000 Assembly Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
SECURITIES DIVISION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND
AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE

File Number 20172001

I hereby certify that I served upon the individual/entity listed below a copy of the document indicated below and dated July 9, 2018, by serving a copy of said document upon the Securities Commissioner of the State of South Carolina and by placing a copy of said document in the United States mail, certified mail, return receipt requested, first class postage prepaid and addressed to:

Hightower Financial Partners, LLC
Attn: Christopher Taylor
640 Morse Avenue, Building A, Unit 2
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Document(s): Administrative Order

Mailed July 10, 2018 from Columbia, South Carolina.

I further hereby certify, swear and affirm that, service of the above-listed entity is in compliance with Section 35-1-611, Code of Laws of South Carolina.

By: Sandra M. Matthews
Sandra M. Matthews
South Carolina Attorney General's Office
Securities Division
Post Office Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211-1549
(803) 734-3300

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
this 10th day of July, 2018.

Susan H. Ballinger
Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 6-29-21

